



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,885	01/18/2005	Ki Soon Ahn	9983.145USWO	8847
23552 7590 08/03/2007 MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			EXAMINER JACOB, AJITH	
			ART UNIT 2169	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/03/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/521,885	Applicant(s) AHN, KI SOON	
	Examiner Ajith Jacob	Art Unit 2169	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/14/07</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 1 recites the limitation "of the type" in line 1 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
3. Claims 15-17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. The method of claim 15 and 16 are dependent on the system of claim 1. The new claims will be examined assuming the applicant meant a system and not a method.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 5 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eder et al. (US 2001/0034628 A1).

For claim 1, Eder et al. teaches:

A consulting system-of the type which provides a consulting service of a specific field to a user across a network [0047], said consulting system comprising:
a database system comprising: a plurality of problem objects, each of the problem

Art Unit: 2169

objects having an identifier, an execution condition, questions which will be given to the user [identification of the objects, execution condition through prior value comparison and financial data assignment, and plurality of questions presented to user, Figure 5A], and answers which will be selected by the user as properties of the problem objects [answers provided by user for each definition, Figure 5A]; [[,]] and a plurality of unit objects, each unit having an answer script for reflecting a result of a series of processes and including at least one of the plurality of problem objects [system with multiple tables and ability to complete necessary calculations, 0048], the plurality of unit objects including a first unit object [prompting and calculations done within one object, Figure 5A], wherein rules between the objects are defined depending on corresponding properties of the objects; and a service component for providing an interface screen for the consulting service to the user via the network [display interface to provide user with information over network, 0047], and for supplying personalized final answers to the user by performing the answer script if the user answers the questions supplied by the rules [extract data from database after user input, 0047], wherein the service component executes the plurality of problem objects in a sequence according to the identifiers of the problem objects which have been input as a property of the first unit object, and wherein the execution condition determines whether the problem object is executed or not [conditional questions to determine whether to prompt for input, Figure 5A, 204].

For claim 2, Eder et al. teaches:

Art Unit: 2169

The system according to claim 1, wherein the first unit object includes a second unit object. Eder et al. teaches multiple definitions that account for multiple unit objects [Figure 5A, 903-905].

For claim 3, Eder et al. teaches:

The system according to claim 2, wherein the second unit object includes a property for a condition that causes the second unit object to be executed upon execution of the first unit object. Eder et al. teaches the ending of the first unit object with a prompt for the second unit object [Figure 5A].

For claim 5, Eder et al. teaches:

The system according to claim 1, wherein the service component operates according to a protocol for providing contents to at least one or more equipments selected from the group, comprising: a personal computer accessible to the network, a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), a wireless terminal, a wire/wireless telephone set and an internet phone [computer system comprising of a client computer and an application server computer that are interconnected via a network, 0049].

Claim 14 is a computer readable medium of claim 1. Eder et al. teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons stated above.

Claim 15 is a method of claim 2. Eder et al. teaches the limitations of claim 2 for the reasons stated above.

Claim 16 is a method of claim 3. Eder et al. teaches the limitations of claim 3 for the reasons stated above.

Art Unit: 2169

Claim 17 is a method of claim 5. Eder et al. teaches the limitations of claim 5 for the reasons stated above.

Claim 18 is a method of claim 1. Eder et al. teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons stated above.

For claim 19, Eder et al. teaches:

The method according to claim 18, wherein the first unit object includes as a property a compulsory condition which precedes the execution condition of the plurality of problem objects. Eder et al. teaches the existence of a condition that is executed before the problem object [Figure 5A, 204].

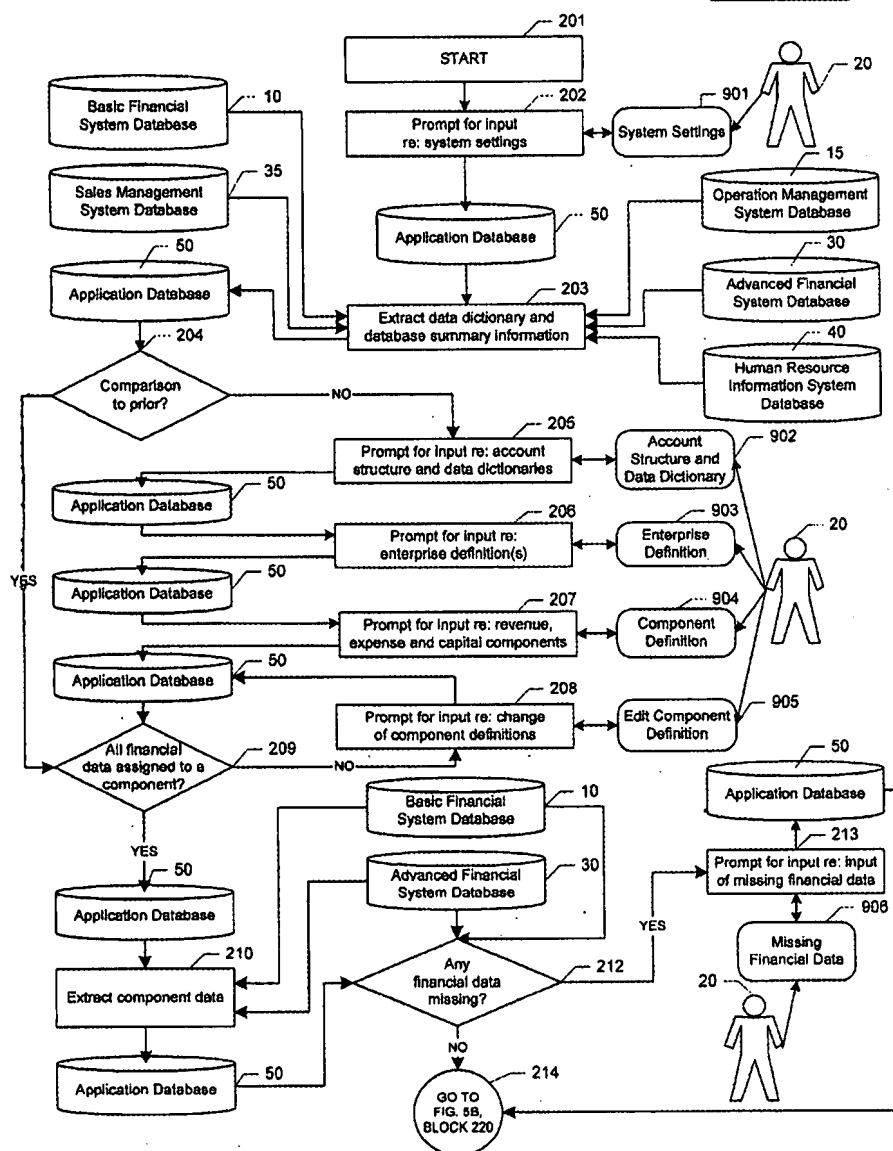
For claim 20, Eder et al. teaches:

The method according to claim 18, wherein the first unit object further includes a second unit object and wherein the second unit object includes a property for a condition that causes the second unit object to be executed upon execution of the first unit object. Eder et al. teaches a function in between the two unit objects that is used as a condition to execute the second unit upon the execution of the first [Figure 5A, 209].

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed May 9, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner respectfully traverses applicant's argument.

Art Unit: 2169

Eder's System:**FIG. 5A**

Applicant's System:

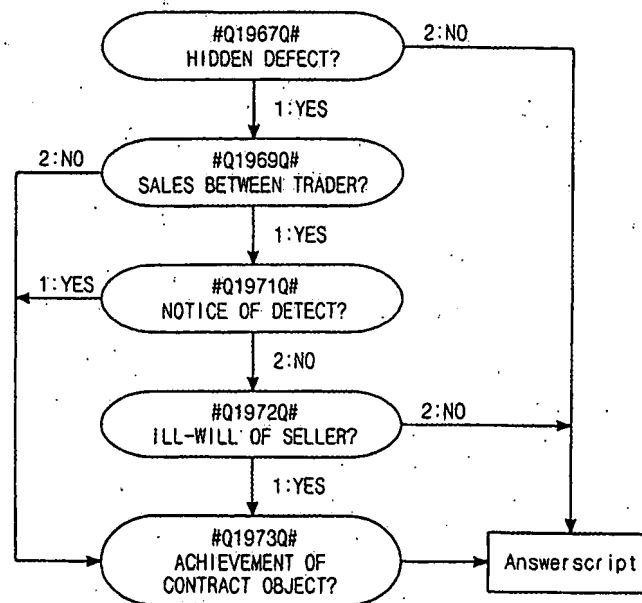


Fig.8

Regarding claims 1, 14 and 18, applicant argues that the Eder patent application (US 2001/0034628 A1) does not disclose a plurality of unit objects that includes at least one of the plurality of problem objects, the plurality of problem objects including an identifier, an execution condition, questions which will be given to the user, and answers

which will be selected by the user as properties of the problem objects. Moreover, the Eder patent application also fails to disclose executing the plurality of problem objects in a sequence according to the identifiers of the problem objects which have been inputted as a property of the first unit object.

Eder et al. teaches the identification of the objects [Figure 5A, 902-905], execution condition through prior value comparison and financial data assignment [Figure 5A, 204 and 209] and plurality of questions presented to the user [Figure 5A, 205-208]. Plurality of unit and problem objects also exists within the system [Figure 5A, 205-208 and 50]. The Eder application also clearly teaches the execution of the plurality of problem objects in a sequence, as shown in Figure 5A, blocks 902-905 (identifier) and blocks 205-208 (problem).

In light of the forgoing arguments, the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejections are hereby sustained.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

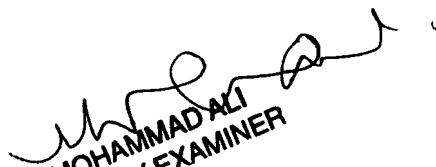
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajith Jacob whose telephone number is 571-270-1763. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 EST, Every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad Ali can be reached on 571-272-4105. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

7/20/2007


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

AJ
AJ
Patent Examiner